

## Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OPR-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /104 W  
----- 018704

O R 041420Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6526

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

COMCARIBSEAFRON

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0015

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BB PINT

SUBJ: HOTEL STRIKE ENDS

REF: BTN 0012

1. SETTLEMENT OF FOUR-DAY HOTEL STRIKE ANNOUNCED LATE JANUARY 3 AFTER BWU GENSEC FRANK WALCOTT AND HOTEL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT STEPHEN EDWARDS CONCLUDED THREE-HOUR PRIVATE BARGAINING SESSION\*. FOLLOWING SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF BWU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WALCOTT ANNOUNCED THAT UNION HAD ACCEPTED COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT AND THAT WORKERS WOULD RETURN TO WORK JANUARY 4. HE URGED WORKERS TO PERFORM DUTIES AS THOUGH STRIKE HAD NEVER OCCURRED.

2. PRIME MINISTER BARROW, JOINED BY WALCOTT AND EDWARDS,\* ADDRESSED NATION OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION AT 8:00 P.M. JANUARY 3 AND ANNOUNCED TERMS OF SETTLEMENT, WHICH APPEARS TO BE TRUE COMPROMISE WITH BOTH SIDES MAKING SIGNIFICANT  
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ONCE\*SI\*NS. BARROW REFUTED CRITICISMS THAT GOVERNMENT HAD

BEEN PASSIVE AND INEFFECTIVE DURING STRIKE AND MADE POINTED, IF INDIRECT, CRITICISMS OF BWU AND STRIKERS FOR FAILING TO OBSERVE LAWS REGARDING PEACEFUL PICKETING AND PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. WALCOTT AND EDWARDS, SEATED SIDE-BY-SIDE IN TELEVISION STUDIO, SEEMED RESIGNED TO, BUT JARVIS MOLLIFIED BY, COMPROMISE SOLUTION, AND THEIR REMARKS REFLECTED DEEP BITTERNESS THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED DISPUTE.

3. COMMENT: AMONG FACTORS APPARENTLY INFLUENCING SETTLEMENT WERE HOTELIERS' DEMONSTRATED WILLINGNESS TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS, THE RELUCTANCE OF SOME HOTEL WORKERS TO SUPPORT STRIKE, AND PM'S EVIDENT DETERMINATION TO FIND SOLUTION BEFORE SERIOUS DAMAGE COULD RESULT TO ECONOMY. THOUGH SETTLEMENT CLEARLY INVOLVED CONCESSIONS BY BOTH SIDES, WALCOTT AND BWU APPEAR TO HAVE SUFFERED GREATER LOSS OF FACE. BARROW, WHO CLEARLY UNDERSTATED HIS ROLE IN SETTLEMENT, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY EMERGE WITH HIS PRESTIGE GREATLY ENHANCED. FURTHER DETAIL AND ANALYSIS TO FOLLOW.  
DONOVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HOTELS, LABOR STRIKES, STRIKE SETTLEMENT, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BRIDGE00015  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740163/aaaacgyc.tel  
**Line Count:** 81  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BTN 0012  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** smithrj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by daviswcw>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2002 by smithrj>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HOTEL STRIKE ENDS  
**TAGS:** PINT, BB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005